

# THE GARZETTE

## W4GR

Volume 17, Issue 07



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### From the Presidents Mic!



QST! QST! de **WA4ZXV, Norm Schklar**

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This issue of the Garzette is dedicated to Field Day. Why is it necessary to make such a fuss over ARRL Field Day? Well, it's our largest annual operating event in both time and people. Field Day is our opportunity to put to practical use many of the skills which we have been refining since first


becoming involved in Amateur Radio. We make sure the generators are working. We test our antennas and transmission lines. We make sure we have all the necessary peripherals to operate our rigs for 24 hours. We figure out what works best in certain circumstances as they come to pass. The club spends some of the money we've been working so hard to accumulate. We'll serve three plus meals and plenty of cold drinks.

For many of us Field Day is the most operating we'll do all year. We'll make contact with most of the 50 states, the Canadian Provinces and several countries. If you are new to HF Amateur Radio operations, you'll see experienced operators in action. You'll see inexperienced operators getting their feet wet making some of their first contacts. You'll also find out the Field Day is about much more than just operating the radio. It's antennas, generators, grills, coolers, water, coffee, tents and all the folks it takes to make it happen.

GARS plans to operate Class A (Club Portable) with a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station. We'll be at the pavilion in the woods on the back side of the lake in Rhodes-Jordan Park, Lawrenceville. Our number of reportable active transmitters will be seven. So our reports when making contacts will be "W4GR 7A GA". We will have additional transmitters on VHF and UHF, but these are not reportable. Our goal will be to make as many contacts with other stations as possible and at the same time maintain courteous communications. We will be looking to accumulate several bonus points for operating under special conditions and involving the community. Operating on generator power, having a GOTA station, announcements to the media, using a public location, maintaining a public Information table, contacting a satellite and other listed items add points to our overall score. Community involvement is important.

( Continued on page 4 )

# JULY 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30 2000 2m net	1 JULY	2 2100 6m net	3	4 	5 0730 breakfast
6	7 2000 2m net	8	9 2100 6m net	10	11	12 0730 breakfast
13	14 2000 2m net	15	16 2100 6m net	17	18	19 0730 breakfast
20	21 2000 2m net	22	23 2100 6m net	24	25	26 0730 breakfast Field Day
27	28 2000 2m net	29	30 2100 6m net	31	1 August	2 0730 breakfast
3	4 2000 2m net	5	6 2100 6m net	7	8	9 0730 breakfast

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## The GARZETTE

*The GARZETTE* is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to [ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

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All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

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P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

## What's next in your wireless certification "To Do" list?

After achieving quite a few industry wireless certifications, I asked myself, "So, what's next?" I've worked with Wi-Fi for the last eight years. I had radar and RF experience prior to that from the military but I never delved too deep into the "guts" of radio. I wanted to learn something that would increase my knowledge and give me opportunities to expand Wi-Fi networking into other areas of wireless communications. I also wanted to be able to "give back" to my community by working with and volunteering for the local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) in a communications role. Last year I took and passed the FCC Element 2 exam and became a licensed Technician class Amateur Radio (Ham) operator. About a month after that I took and passed the FCC Element 3 exam and became a licensed General class operator. Since then I've gotten involved in Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS). I'm a member of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Response team for ARES and am now the Net Manager for GARS. I was also selected as Battalion Coordinator and Board Member for Gwinnett CERT.

At my first Field Day in 2007 I helped everyone setup antennas and radio stations. I made my first HF contact and received a certificate for it. I even tied for first on the antenna launcher challenge (I'm pretty handy with a slingshot). For Field Day 2008, I'll likely do the same and get on the air again to make more contacts. Things move pretty fast when you're interested in what you're doing and you're having fun. Now, you may ask yourself, what the heck does amateur radio have to do with Wi-Fi networking? Well, that's where it gets interesting. First, you'll need to learn about the basics of radios, antennas, and electronics to pass the short (and relatively easy) Technician class exam. Learning the basics will help expand your knowledge in Wi-Fi solutions as well, such as why different antennas operate the way they do and how RF reacts in different atmospheric conditions. It helps "bring home" some of those concepts we've always accepted as Wi-Fi people because well, that's just how we learned them.

What makes amateur radio interesting is how the FCC and ham operators have changed amateur radio over the past 20 years and especially the past 7 years. Amateur radio has been around since 1900 but the last 7 years have introduced many positive changes that new operators can benefit from, such as removing the requirement to learn Morse code (although you'll probably want to learn it anyway) and expanding the available operating frequency spectrums. Here's where it gets interesting to me though. You can now hook-up your ham radio to the Internet and wirelessly pass voice and data traffic. I feel that future wireless communication solutions will continue to blur the lines between licensed and unlicensed radio technologies.

Back to my original question, which was "What the heck does amateur radio have to do with Wi-Fi networking?" In times of disaster and emergency, there may not be a functioning "normal" communications network. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, cell towers may have survived but their power systems were likely under 12+ feet of water. Any cell towers that made it through the storm were fully saturated with the number of calls they were handling. Eventually all cell phone batteries were depleted because there was no power to recharge them. First responders had to rely on car batteries and portable generators -- ham operators were on the scene and helped coordinate rescue operations and emergency communications. Local WLAN networks were established to help the coordinators communicate and share information until connections to the Internet were reestablished. The bottom-line is that it was a blend of many types of radio communication that brought everything together -- none of it was easy because there were so many issues involved and human lives were at risk -- but wireless knowledge and expertise was integral to helping address the harder problems at hand. Communication in situations like that is a "basic necessity" for emergency response teams. So, once you get a firm grasp on Wi-Fi networking, look to expand that knowledge and see what you can do to give back to your community. I guarantee it will be worth it.

Joel Barrett, W4JOL  
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(continued from page 1)

Field Day officially starts at 2:00 pm on June 28<sup>th</sup> or the fourth full weekend in June. GARS will put a few antennas in the air on Friday evening, then head back over on Saturday morning about 10:00. That's after a 7:30 breakfast at Golden Corral in Lawrenceville. Band captains, the folks responsible for making sure there is a radio, tuner, cables and items of comfort for the operating position, have been assigned. In many cases, they are still looking for operators and loggers to help fill out the 24 hours schedule. All bands, or operating positions, will not be useable for the entire period as atmospheric conditions will limit the usability of the frequency. We try to make the best of the useable frequencies and equipment by doing a little switching around to be sure we're making contacts when the bands are open. During the wee hours, about 11:00pm local through 5:00am, there are a lot of contacts to be made, but they are a little harder to find. So we need to be sure we have fresh operators coming in or back in. And for those that get a good night sleep, come on back about 11:00am Sunday and help us get packed up and deliver the big stuff back to storage.

Life does go on after Field Day.

The July program will be presented by Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM. The topic *Radio Operations at the Mars Desert Research Station*.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Norm, WA4ZXV





## Field Day Heaven

by  
Kyle W4KDA

Field day is a special event in so many ways. For many of us, radio keeps us away from family, while connecting us with ham friends. But field day is a special moment in time that can bring family, friends, and radio all together in one place. Field day is a contest, and it is intended to teach people about emergency communications (operating equipment in the field), but it is SO much more than that.

When I think about field day, I don't think about a specific story as much as I do the general imagery that is repeated in hundreds of places across the country every year. For us at Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society near Atlanta Georgia, our club makes Field day a large scale, family oriented event. It is so overwhelmingly impressive when I arrive at the site on Saturday morning. Antennas in the air. Wire antennas, sometimes beams on temporary towers with rotators. Feedlines on the ground and in the air. People moving like ants in both a well coordinated and yet chaotic manner at the same time. They are setting up radios, food, beverages, tents, chairs, computers for logging, and generator power.

Later the temperature rises, and the kids are playing right over there. The unpredictable movement, laughter and shrieking as the children play a makeshift game. The wives now are mostly gathered in groups talking and shaking their heads, except for the special few donning headsets and calling, "CQ contest, CQ contest." As the sunny afternoon lingers on, bursts of laughter are heard, as the older members sit, talk, and have a cold one together. Sometimes I lean back away from the radio and just enjoy the warm breeze coming off the lake. Pfffft-tock mmmm. Someone just played a joke, and now two 50 year old men are chasing each other around the park like teenagers. Deep in the solar cycle, someone yells, "Hey, six meters is open!" and a crowd gathers around. Without disturbing the operator, one of the senior members quietly explains to the new and non hams that this six meter opening is rare. Even though they may not know exactly what it means, they feel the excitement in the air.

As the afternoon marches on, I realize I smell charcoal smoke in the breeze as the grills are being readied for the big family barbecue. What? Supper already?!? Where did the afternoon go? The fragrance of seared meat fills my nose, and another smell teases me. I pause and try to place the smell; it is warmed apple pie. Someone brought pie! I hear "CQ apple pie, CQ apple pie" in my head and chuckle to myself as I am drawn to the pavilion.

Laughter, good food, friends, and radio. I hope they have Field day in heaven.



## My First GARS Field Day.

Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

I'm not sure just which year it was, but it isn't important. I had been in Georgia for about 2 years and was consumed with my work. I ran into a ham at my work place via having a bunch of UPSs that I had just replaced, and he spotted them. He wanted to know if I would donate them to a Ham Radio Club. Well, that was it. We started talking radio, and soon he was in my back yard with a bow and arrow pointed up at a tree. We install a dipole and he loaned me a radio. Mine were still up in Tennessee.

Next thing I remember, I was at a hamfest and saw these guys with red hats and red shirts. The shirts said something about Gwinnett County. It must have been the Atlanta HamFest, as it wasn't long until Field Day. I looked up GARS on the web and found that they were planning a Field Day in Lawrenceville. That seemed way off (I live in Norcross), but I decided to get up on Saturday morning and see what I could find. It didn't take too long to find them, and the guys seemed nice enough. It seemed they could use all the help they could get, so I pitched in. There was tower, cable, tents, tables and pieces parts everywhere. After working up a good sweat and finding that things would eventually fit together, I settled in and helped do some logging. I moved from one position to another as folks either wanted a relief or I got bored. It gave me a great chance to meet several of the hams.

About 11:00pm after eating lunch and dinner with the crew, I went home and picked up a clean shirt and some aspirin, explained to the XYL that I was going back and headed back out to Field Day to work the late/early shift. I returned just in time for the midnight snack. I sat and watched the guys working CW for hours. I tried picking up enough to copy or help log, but I was worthless as a CW operator. It had probably been 25 years or better since I touched a key. I promised myself that the next year I would at a minimum be able to copy well enough to do some logging.

I don't remember anything happening that really stood out, just a lot of fun working on and around hams and ham gear. About 12:00 noon on Sunday, we started taking things apart. I followed someone out to one of the storage areas and helped unload tower and antennas. About 4:00pm I was home and ready for a good nap. I had helped with Field Day back in Tennessee a couple times, but we never had more than two rigs setup and never worked all night. Needless to say, that while I was there I heard a lot of great things about GARS, and was invited to attend the next meeting. I showed up and after deciding that the president handing out flowers wasn't such a bad thing, I joined. I got my free drink during the break, had to introduce myself three or four times. The rest is history. I did miss one Field Day. My son's spouse-to-be decided to have their wedding on Field Day weekend.



## MY FIRST FIELD DAY

By Ron Langston  
WE5O

I was barely a Novice operator (WD0FPT) when I attended my first Field Day. Bill Stocking, W0VM, a retired High School Physics teacher who had befriended me and become my most valued Elmer insisted that I needed to be a part of their Field Day Event. It was a ham radio contest to be held at the campus of Principia College in St. Louis. Dr. David Cornell, K9BO, a College Physics professor and several other experienced hams were to take part.

I knew from my experience with W0VM that it would be an all CW event. Microphones were seldom used in Bill's ham shack and I guess I got the CW habit from him. However, I knew that my meager 5wpm code speed would be of little assistance at such an event and I would probably be embarrassed if asked to send any traffic. Finally, I gave in to their vocal insistence that FD is a right of passage for all new hams and said, "Ok, I would be there." It was not until year's later that I found out they really wanted for me to attend, but especially because I had a brand new Drake TR4-cw that they wanted to use. "Oh well, even friendships get twisted a little in the planning for serious competition.

The planned site was in the middle the beautiful Principia campus. There were several tall trees nearby and when I arrived on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. a large tarpaulin had been erected for protection from the sun and any rain over two long tables that were to be used for operating. The crew of five (I made six) was busy with measurements and lay-out for the large Inverted Vee that was to be used. This antenna would undoubtedly be fed with balanced line. I knew that Bill was a big believer in balance feedline and he was an expert at building homebrew tuners made expressly for balanced line. As he used to say, "All good antennas work better with balance feedline, and a good tuner makes them work even better." Bill used to brag that he could tune anything with his "Old Reliable" tuner circuit using plug in coils and large variable capacitors. And you know what.... he could. Although Bill is now a silent key, I am very proud to say that I still have his favorite "Old Reliable" tuner as part of my cw key collection.

Obviously, a little overwhelmed by all of this Field Day preparation, I tried to do what I could to assist the preparations. In just a very few minutes the tall mast that was to support the antenna was raised into position like the center pole for a big circus tent. It was an awe inspiring sight that still has a place in my memories. Shortly after the antenna was up the generator was started, lights were checked and then they took my Drake TR4 – cw plugged it in and began tuning it up on the antenna for the different bands that were planned for use. Settings for the antenna tuner were written on a 5x8 card and taped to the power supply for later reference. Note paper was neatly stacked at the logger's side. The log book was clean and ready. Sharpened pencils sat waiting in a big cup like ammunition. Wires were neatly trimmed. The site looked more like a military installation than a Ham event. I began to wonder what in the world I had gotten into.

Everything was at the ready by eleven thirty. Almost as if by signal, cars started arriving and several ladies and young girls began to set up a big lunch spread on a nearby picnic table. There was everything on that table ...fried chicken, ham sandwiches, mashed potatoes, salad, green beans, potato chips, iced tea, two large plates of homemade cookies, a big apple pie, and many other things too numerous to remember. The lunch blessing was said and we all sat down to a wonderful lunch in beautiful setting.

It was almost a shame when Bill announced that the Field Day start time was fast approaching. It was time to finish lunch and get ready. We were divided into two teams of three. The procedure would be for each team to serve a three hour shift. The duties were: operator, logger and dupe checker. Each team member was to serve an hour in a duty function and then switch. That way each person got to work in a position and get the rhythm of the process as they progressed from one duty to the next. While other operators would possibly arrive later, each team member was expected to be ready to serve four three hour shifts, if needed. While everyone looked at it as fun, the operation was very serious. Our goal was to achieve a very impressive score. We would be using Dr. Cornell's call sign, K9BO.

(continued on page 8)



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(He used to use joke that his station call sign was often referred to on SSB as "Doggie Odor".)

The start time arrived and my heart was beating like a 16 year old boy on his first date. I did not want to make any mistakes that would hurt the team's score....but I did not know anything about dupe checking. I had a large cardboard square with a matrix that showed the FCC amateur call sign areas blocked out along the top line with the HF amateur communication bands listed along side the matrix. The spaces created by this matrix were to be used for listing contacts by band so; if possible, the operator would not work the same station twice. Fortunately for me, I was able to look over the entries of the logger to get information for the dupe board. While it was probably only about 20 wpm, the code speed that the operator was using sounded like machine gun fire to me and I knew that it would be impossible for me to copy.

As the shift progressed I moved up to logger. While I was beginning to get the rhythm of the process I still received considerable help from the operator who would announce each contact so I could enter it on the log sheet. But oh....oh....oh.... the third hour of our first shift was approaching. Both operators before me had logged considerable scores. My knees began to shake and when they told me it was my turn to take the key (we were using a straight key for all contacts in those days) I tried to take a pass and continue logging. But they would not have it. It was my turn to operate and whatever I scored would be what we got. That was the plan and we would stick to it.

Well there I was with friends and mentor who were serious about this competition and me with a lowly 5 wpm code speed. My throat was so dry I could have drunk a gallon of that iced tea. While my code speed was only 5wpm my legs must have been vibrating at nearly 30 wpm. I put the Trimm earphones on my ears and decided the only likely place I would be able to find any stations that I could work effectively would be in my favorite haunt... the 40 meter novice band between 7100 and 7150. I slowly tuned that old Drake down there, checked the tuner settings using low power and when the swr meter showed 1:1 and then began to load the finals and dip the plate in small increments till I had that transceiver at 100 watts output. (While the Drake TR4 is capable of 200 watts on cw and 300 watts in SSB, I had previously set the bias adjustment so that it would only load to 100 watts at maximum smoke. That was the power limit for Novice operators.)

So there I was... and everyone was waiting for me to start making contacts. They waited... and waited... and sloooowly I tuned the dial. All of a sudden I heard CQ FD and a call sign. I listened again. It was a W2XX call from New York ....and yes it was at a speed that I could copy. I guess there were other hams out there in the same predicament... How to work Field Day without being blown away by the high speeds. I answered his call and he sent "K9BO ur 599 NY/599 NY ar k" I returned "W2XX ur 599 MO / 599 MO tnx es gl de K9BO."

Wow!! Wow!! I got through my first Field Day contact. And so it went through out the night. I never slept a wink. While I was not very fast, I had added to the score of the team and had complements and encouragement from the rest of the team. It got easier with each shift and before you know it the sun was coming up. What a blast.

I will never forget that first field day. At that moment Field day became a regular ham radio event for me and one of the high points of every year. I spent many Field Days with that team of guys. We used to run up some very impressive scores. Many wild tales from those events are still right here in my memory banks. I sold that old Drake last year and have often since wished I still had it.

I have spent a number of happy Field Days with the GARS team as well. GARS eats a little more and is less serious about their score, but their events are no less exciting. I love putting new hams on a cw key for the first time and walking them through their first Field Day contact. And of course, I have great memories of working 40 meter CW with W4HG, Howie Gould and with Johnny Fearon. Though Howie is now a silent key, those are fond memories that will be with me for ever. Howie used to get so excited he would veritabily bounce up and down when he was on a good run of contacts.

Sometime, if you have time, I will tell you some other exciting tales of Field Days past, but for now I hope you will get out there this year and make a few memories for yourself. I hope to see you at the 2008 GARS Field Day.

73 fer nw es gl      de we50 sk

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## Did You Know?

Most GARS members know about ARES and that it provides emergency communications in the event of an emergency or disaster. Did you know that Gwinnett ARES is the largest active ARES organization in Georgia with over 75 active, trained Amateurs volunteering their time and equipment to support this effort? In fact, Gwinnett ARES as a group contributes an average of 274 man-hours each month for nets, training, drills, meetings and emergency communications such as Skywarn operations. For 2008 to date, about 1643 man-hours have been contributed for these activities. That doesn't mean that each member spends countless hours each month, but with the size of Gwinnett ARES, we can provide tremendous resources to support one of the fundamental purposes of Amateur Radio.

At this year's joint GARS-ARES Field Day, the Gwinnett ARES Mobile Communications facility (MCF) will provide one the seven operating stations for the 24 hour operation. Field Day provides an excellent opportunity to develop and practice operating skills that are used in emergency communications. Stop by and operate the 20 meter SSB station from the MCF.

If emergency communications sounds like an interesting part of Amateur Radio for you, visit the Gwinnett ARES website at <http://www.gwinnettares.org/> for more information.

John A. Davis  
WB4QDX

Emergency Coordinator

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Emergency Service



### Gars Field Day Talk In

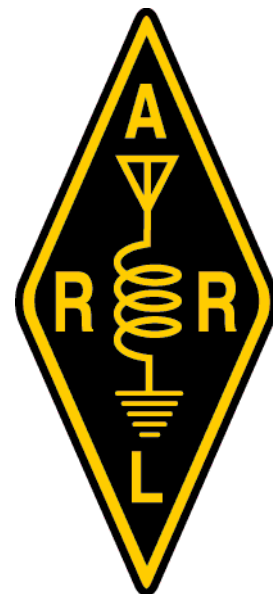
Need directions to the field day site?

There will a talk in on the GARS repeater.

147.075 + MHZ

It will begin about 0900 or when we leave the

Golden Coral.



## Food

We will again have dinner catered by Sonny's. It will be pulled pork and pulled chicken. The noon meal on Saturday will be hot dogs. Sunday morning will be the special provided by our own AF4FG, Earl Whatley.

Here is the time line. 0730 Saturday breakfast at Golden Coral, 1230 Saturday hotdogs at the site, 1900 dinner at the site, midnight will be leftovers, Sunday morning will the special by Earl, Lunch will again be left overs.

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## The Story of the Second GLASS Net

by  
Kyle W4KDA

On May 29th we had the second GARS Local Area Sixmeter Sideband (GLASS) Net. This special event was intended to push the limits of what we can do with 6m single sideband operations in the local area, and to bring more general interest to this really exciting band. Local area means ground wave operations, perhaps most of North Georgia. But from the beginning we said we would not mind a few long distance (DX) contacts joining us to add some excitement to the net. One somewhat different aspect of the GLASS Net is that we use multiple net control operators stationed around Gwinnett county who pass the control duties around. This allows stations to check into the net, even if they cannot hear one of the net control operators.

Back around January when I committed to doing this project for a second time, 6m was closed. "Closed" means we had local communications, but no sporadic-E to facilitate DX contacts. Being closed, the band was nice and quiet at that time. Using ground wave, it was easy to reach people in the local area at any time even with very low power.

Based on the lack of E, and the quiet nature of the band, I made a very shortsighted mistake during the planning process. You see, 50.125 is the 6m SSB calling frequency, and we would never use that frequency for a net. However, with no E in sight to give us good DX, I chose the frequency of 50.145. This would surely be in the portion of the band that 6m antennas are cut for. Plus, if we had a little bit of E, we might get a couple check-ins from people very far away who stumbled upon our net and that would make the net more interesting. The problem is, 50.145 is in the DX window, which means it is the portion of the band people use for long distance contacts when the band is open.

As Mr. Murphy would have it, 6m was very much open at the time of the GLASS Net. And being at the bottom of the solar cycle, many folks are hungry for 6m contacts. In fact, it was so far open, that as many as 5 different people could be heard calling CQ on the frequency I had myopically chosen for our net. The GLASS Net had been published and advertised all over Georgia, with special emphasis on North Georgia. It was simply too late to move the net. Bobby, K4JPC, one of our net controls, had the arduous task of trying to courteously move people off the frequency so we could have the net. Even so, during the net it was possible to hear hams calling CQ right on our frequency, and man-made interference (QRM) from operators on adjacent frequencies made copy difficult. This was a far cry from the planning stages where one could easily talk 20 miles on 5 watts (SSB/simplex) just a few months prior.

Nevertheless, we persevered and I will proclaim the net a success. After the rocky start, the band closed up a bit, which helped immensely. Unfortunately, I believe that many of the operators who had planned to check in with us from around North Georgia did not hear the beginning of the net due to the intense sporadic-E induced band opening, and did not hang around to listen to all the noise while waiting to hear the next net control operator. I think this is why we did not have more check-ins from around North Georgia.

When the GLASS Net was over, we had a total of 71 check-ins. Of those, 49 were local (ground wave) and 22 were DX. The DX contacts were far and wide due to the band opening. During the net, we did not have any double hops. The furthest contacts were 2 contacts from Ontario, Canada.

For me, the GLASS Net was quite educational. You have probably guessed by now that the biggest learning point was: do NOT put a net in the middle of a DX window when possible. Still, I am glad to say that all the feedback seemed to include the word 'fun'. Here are a few comments I received:

"That was fun!" - K4JPC

"The most fun I have ever had as an amateur radio operator." - KJ4CNC

"I had a lot of fun for a HF CW buff." - WA4DEO

Will we do it do the GLASS Net again? Perhaps we will have even more fun and do a better job with it in 2009.

### My First Field Day with GARS

By

David Adcock, KA4KKF

That was so long ago, I can't remember all who were there. It was a 2 station setup in a tent and it rained. I believe the year was 1993 or 1994. One of the stations was swamped with water from the runoff. I did very little operating. I was there to get the experience. It was incredible watching these guys work the bands. Actually this was my first field day ever. I was licensed in 1979 and never attended a field day until I got involved with GARS. From that point on, GARS continued to develop its field day strategy. I dug through a bunch of old garzettes I had saved and found the 1997 garzette for field day. KD3GC, Mark Kozma was field day chairman that year. 1996 chairman was Joe Biddle AD4PZ. I believe Joe was the first to get GARS started at Rhodes Jordan Park. We have been there ever since 1996. With the same location every year, GARS has enjoyed a large turn out from its members and the public. It makes it easier with the planning too.

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GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

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**Mark KJ4VO**

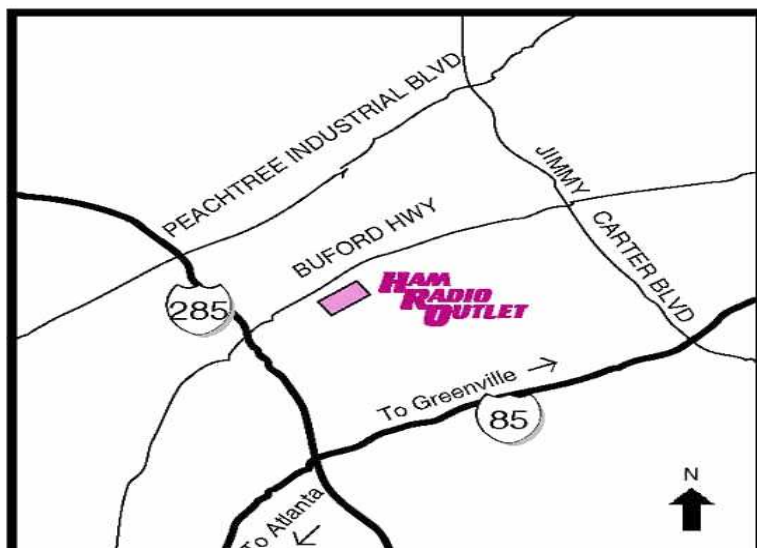
**Tim W4EGT**

**David KE4VDH**

**Dale W4GCL**

**Bill KF8AZ**

**Josh W4JDH**



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To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

### Saturday Morning

#### Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral  
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

#### Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 8th

The Meetings are on the  
Second Tuesday of the  
month 7:30pm at the  
St Marguerite  
D'Youville Church,

85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.  
Just off Highway 29 SW  
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web  
site.

<http://www.gars.org>

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\*\*References available upon Request